REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Moses (U.S. Patent No.: 6,442,688). Applicant respectfully disagrees with such rejection, especially in view of the amendments made hereinabove.

Specifically, now claimed is a multi-tier system, as follows:

"wherein a plurality of computer systems is logically divided into a plurality of sections including a primary tier, a secondary tier, a tertiary tier, and a fourth tier;

wherein said computer systems in said primary tier are adapted for monitoring changes to conditions of said electronic certificates and notifying said computer systems in said secondary tier of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates;

wherein said computer systems in said primary tier are adapted for contracting with said computer systems in said secondary tier for determining a type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates said computer systems in said secondary tier are notified of by said computer systems in said primary tier;

wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are adapted for notifying said computer systems in said tertiary tier of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates;

wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are adapted for contracting with said computer systems in said tertiary tier for determining a type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates said computer systems in said tertiary tier are notified of by said computer systems in said secondary tier" (see all independent claims).

-10-

Thus, now claimed is a three tier system whereby a primary tier of computer systems both detects changes to electronic certificates and notifies the secondary tier of computer systems of a specific change type based on a particular contract between the primary and secondary tier of computer systems. Moreover, the secondary tier of computer systems notifies the tertiary tier of computer systems of a specific type of such changes (passed between the primary tier to the secondary tier of computer systems) based on a particular contract between the secondary and tertiary tier of computer systems.

By this specific multi-tier approach, computer systems in the secondary tier are notified of the type of changes associated with contracts between the primary and secondary tier computer systems. Further, the computer systems in the tertiary tier are notified of the type of changes associated with both the contracts between the primary and secondary tier computer systems, and contracts between the secondary and tertiary tier computer systems.

Only applicant teaches and claims such a multi-tier contracting approach in the specific context of electronic certificate changes, where contract terms associated with a primary system and lower systems have ramifications on notifications throughout the entire system. Further, contract terms associated secondary and lower computer systems have ramifications on notifications throughout only lower tiers, etc. A notice of allowance or a specific prior art showing of each of the foregoing features, in combination with the remaining claim elements, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is reminded that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim.

-11-

This criteria has simply not been met by the Moses reference, since such reference fails to meet all of applicant's claim limitations (as set forth hereinabove).

Applicant further brings to the Examiner's attention the following combination of features added in Claims 17 and 30-34 which is deemed allowable, when taken in combination with the remaining claim elements:

"wherein a plurality of computer systems is logically divided into a plurality of sections including a primary tier, a secondary tier, a tertiary tier, and a fourth tier;

wherein said computer systems in said primary tier are adapted for monitoring changes to conditions of said electronic certificates and notifying said computer systems in said secondary tier of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates;

wherein said computer systems in said primary tier are adapted for contracting with said computer systems in said secondary tier for determining a type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates said computer systems in said secondary tier are notified of by said computer systems in said primary tier;

wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are adapted for monitoring changes to conditions of said electronic certificates and notifying said computer systems in said tertiary tier of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates;

wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are adapted for contracting with said computer systems in said tertiary tier for determining a type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates said computer systems in said tertiary tier are notified of by said computer systems in said secondary tier;

wherein said computer systems in said tertiary tier are adapted for monitoring changes to conditions of said electronic certificates and notifying said computer systems in said fourth tier of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates;

-12-

wherein said computer systems in said tertiary tier are adapted for contracting with said computer systems in said fourth tier for determining a type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates said computer systems in said fourth tier are notified of by said computer systems in said tertiary tier;

wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are notified of said type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates associated with contracts between said computer systems in said primary tier and said computer systems in said secondary tier; said computer systems in said tertiary tier are notified of said type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates associated with said contracts between said computer systems in said primary tier and said computer systems in said secondary tier, and contracts between said computer systems in said secondary tier and said computer systems in said tertiary tier; and said computer systems in said fourth tier are notified of said type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates associated with said contracts between said computer systems in said primary tier and said computer systems in said secondary tier, said contracts between said computer systems in said secondary tier and said computer systems in said tertiary tier, and contracts between said computer systems in said tertiary tier and said computer systems in said fourth tier" (see Claim 17);

"wherein said computer systems in said secondary tier are notified of said type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates associated with contracts between said computer systems in said primary tier and said computer systems in said secondary tier; and said computer systems in said tertiary tier are notified of said type of said changes to conditions of said electronic certificates associated with said contracts between said computer systems in said primary tier and said computer systems in said secondary tier, and contracts between said computer systems in said secondary tier and said computer systems in said tertiary tier" (see Claim 30);

-13-

"wherein said computer systems in said tiers are logically organized as a tree" (see Claim 32);

"wherein said computer systems in said tiers are logically organized as a ring" (see Claim 33); and

"wherein said computer systems in said tiers are logically organized as a web" (see Claim 34).

Again, a notice of allowance or a specific prior art showing of each of the foregoing features, in combination with the remaining claim elements, is respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth hereinabove, all of the independent claims and the dependent claims are deemed allowable. All of the Examiner's rejections and objections are thus deemed to be overcome, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 505-5100. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1351 (Order No. NAI1P071/00.101.01).

Respectfully submitted,
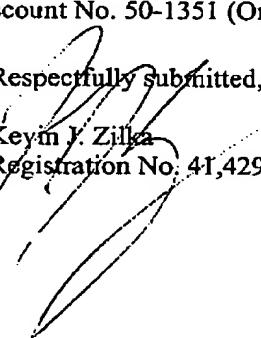
Kevin J. Zilka
Registration No. 41,429

P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, CA 95172
Telephone: (408) 505-5100

-14-